

RESPONSE

In the Office Action of February 27, 2002, the Examiner issued an election requirement between 9 groups of claims. Group I – claims 1 and 2, Group II – claim 3, Group III – claim 4, Group IV – claim 5, Group V – claim 6, Group VI – claim 7, Group VII – claim 8, Group VIII – claim 9 and Group IX – claim 10. The applicant elects to prosecute groups I and IX which are claims 1, 2 and 10.

Claims 1, 2 and 10-20 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claim 2 is original and claims 11-20 are new.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 10 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ehrenfried. Ehrenfried discloses an “indicator” that includes a substrate having two sides, each of which are attached to one part of a two-part hook and loop fastener system. The indicators are used with various types of protective equipment including: gloves, boots, shinguards, chest protectors and head gear. (Ehrenfried, Col. 3, lines 50-66, Fig. 1.)

Although Ehrenfried discloses the use of indicators on the protective gear, it does not disclose any configurations or patterns of where the indicators should be placed on the protective gear. Ehrenfried simply states that there is no requirement with respect to the mounting locations on the equipment. (Ehrenfried, Col. 6, lines 3-7.)

The applicant has amended the claims and added new claims that include limitations directed towards the arrangement of the targets on the protective equipment. Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation that the limitation of a chest protector and that the point indication means are arranged in a pattern of two horizontal rows of

two or more point indication means on the front of the chest protector. This new limitation is disclosed by Fig. 1 of the application. As illustrated in Fig. 1, there are three rows of spaces for the targets. The chest protector on the right side has two targets on the top row of spaces and two targets on the bottom row of targets. The applicant submits that claim 1 is not invalid as anticipated by Ehrenfried because this reference does not disclose any pattern of targets.

Claim 10 was amended to change the dependence from claim 6 which was withdrawn to claim 2 which is still pending. Because claims 2 and 10 depend from claim 1, the applicant submits that these claims are also not invalid as anticipated by Ehrenfried for the same reasons discussed above in claim 1.

The applicant has added new claims 11 – 20. Claims 11- 15 are directed towards a chest protector having a plurality of substantially horizontal rows across the front of the protector with each row having spaces for two or more targets. New claims 11- 15 are supported by the specification at pages 2-3 and figures 1 and 3. New claims 16-20 are directed towards a head protector having a cylindrical portion that surrounds a user's head and has a plurality of spaces for holding the targets. New claims 16-20 are supported by the specification at pages 2-3 and figures 1 and 6-8. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Ehrenfried does not disclose any information regarding how the targets are arranged on the protective gear.

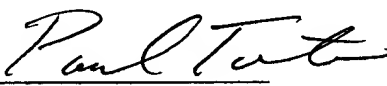
Applicant respectfully requests that the above described amendments be made part of the official record in the present application, and respectfully submit that support for the claim amendments and new claims is present in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed, and that no new matter has been added.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-0822.

Respectfully submitted,
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